

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A data collection apparatus, comprising:

a user-supportable housing;

an optical reader; and

a computerized processing system, located in said user-supportable housing, communicatively coupled with said optical reader; and

a display, located on said housing and communicatively coupled with said computerized processing system, to present data to a user;

wherein said optical reader is operable to read handwritten data and wherein said computerized processing system is operable to store handwritten data read by said optical reader.

Claim 2 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 1, wherein said optical reader is operable to read handwritten data such as a human signature and wherein said computerized processing system is operable to store handwritten data such as a human signature read by said optical reader.

Claim 3 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 1, wherein said optical reader is operable to read handwritten data such as human-generated text and wherein said computerized processing system is operable to store handwritten data such as human-generated text read by said optical reader.

Claim 4 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 1, wherein said optical reader is operable to read handwritten data such as human-generated graphics and wherein said computerized processing system is operable to store handwritten data such as human-generated graphics read by said optical reader.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The data collection apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user-supportable housing comprises a handgrip section, said handgrip section having a cross-section of a size capable of being held ~~in one hand with fingers and opposing thumb embracing opposite sides of said handgrip section.~~

Claim 6 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a handwriting receiving component.

Claim 7 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a removable handwriting receiving component, physically coupled with said user-supportable housing, wherein said removable handwriting receiving component can be removed from said user-supportable housing by a user.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 1, wherein said optical reader is a digital optical reader, said digital optical reader being capable of communicating read handwritten data to said computerized processing system as digitized data.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of reading handwritten information with a data collection apparatus, comprising the steps of:

 aiming an optical reader at handwritten information, the optical reader communicatively coupled with a computerized processing system of a user-supportable data collection apparatus;

 imaging the handwritten information at which the optical reader is aimed
without contacting the optical information being imaged;

 digitizing the imaged handwritten information; and

 storing the digitized handwritten information in the user-supportable data collection apparatus by the computerized processing system.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein said aiming step comprises aiming an optical reader at handwritten information including a signature.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of verifying a stored signature.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein said storing step stores a signature for future verification.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein said aiming step comprises aiming an optical reader at handwritten information including human-written text.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein said aiming step comprises aiming an optical reader at handwritten information including human-drawn graphics.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
attaching a handwriting receiving component to a user-supportable data collection apparatus; and
writing handwritten information on the attached handwriting receiving component.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
attaching a user-removable handwriting receiving component to a user-supportable data collection apparatus; and
writing handwritten information on the attached user-removable handwriting receiving component.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A data collection apparatus, comprising:
means for providing a user-supportable housing;
means for optically reading handwritten information; and
means for computerized processing of read handwritten information,
located in said means for providing a user-supportable housing, communicatively
coupled with said means for optically reading[[.]]; and

means for displaying data to a user, located on said means for providing a user-supportable housing and communicatively coupled with said means for computerized processing.

Claim 19 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for optically reading is operable to read handwritten data such as a human signature and wherein said means for computerized processing is operable to store handwritten data such as a human signature read by said means for optically reading.

Claim 20 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for optically reading is operable to read handwritten data such as human-generated text and wherein said means for computerized processing is operable to store handwritten data such as human-generated text read by said means for optically reading.

Claim 21 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for optically reading is operable to read handwritten data such as human-generated graphics and wherein said means for computerized processing is operable to store handwritten data such as human-generated graphics read by said means for optically reading.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The data collection apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for providing a user-supportable housing comprises means for providing a handgrip, said means for providing a handgrip having a cross-section of a size capable of being held in one hand ~~with fingers and opposing thumb embracing opposite sides of said means for providing a handgrip.~~

Claim 23 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for receiving handwritten information.

Claim 24 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for providing a user-removable handwriting receiving component, physically coupled with said means for providing a user-supportable housing.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (original): The data collection apparatus of claim 18, wherein said means for optically reading comprises means for digitally optically reading, said means for digitally optically reading communicating read handwritten data to said means for computerized processing as digitized data.

General Authorization Under 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3)

The Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to treat this or any future response requiring a petition for an extension of time, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

In addition, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees deemed due under 37 CFR 1.17 to Deposit Account 19-2260.

Further, if it is determined that any other fees are due in this application, or if it is determined that an overpayment has been made, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account 19-2260 as appropriate.